

my amendment is to encourage the National Historic Preservation Fund and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to redouble their efforts to assist state and local governments and community groups in identifying and working to preserve nationally significant sites, structures, and artifacts, particularly those relating to communities founded by newly emancipated slaves, such as Freedmen's Town in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Chairman, just west of downtown Houston lies the Fourth Ward. It is the city's oldest Black community. But before it was the Fourth Ward, this community was known by its original name, Freedmen's Town, given by freed slaves who settled it shortly after receiving the news of their emancipation on Juneteenth.

Initially located where Allen Parkway Village now stands, Freedmen's Town was established immediately after the Civil War, when many farmers gave or sold their truck farms and property to freed slaves. Freedmen's Town prospered during the turn of the century.

Economic, community, and social development were at a peak until local government became threatened by the prosperity of this area and its residents. In the 1920s, Freedmen's Town was the "Harlem of the Southwest." The area was filled with many restaurants, jazz spots, and night clubs. These establishments were frequently visited by Houston's white citizens as well. West Dallas was the community's main commercial strip.

As the years passed and with the coming of integration, many Freedmen's Town residents began to move toward Texas Southern University, in the Third Ward, and other areas of the city, such as Studewood, South Park, Riverside Terrace, Kashmere Gardens, and Acres Homes. And the size and population of Freedmen's Town began to shrink. Much of this was due to construction in the late 1930s against the wishes of Blacks here, which continued to sever the historical neighborhood, divided nearly at midpoint by the addition of the Gulf Freeway.

The struggle for justice by community residents and leadership is only one facet of Freedmen's Town's rich and colorful past, which is still home to many significant historical landmarks and features. Hand-laid brick streets, constructed by Rev. Jeremiah and his congregation over half a century ago, still run through the area. Houston's first cemetery, Founder's Cemetery at Valentine and West Dallas, contains the graves of military men who fought in the Civil War, as well as the historical remains of John and Augustus Allen, the founders of Houston.

Immediately adjacent to Founder's Cemetery stands the "Hanging Tree" where several Blacks were hanged. During World War I, Camp Logan, located just west of Freedmen's Town, was the site of the worst race war in the city's history—the "Camp Logan War" in August of 1917.

Behind Founder's Cemetery lies Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Houston, which is beautifully maintained to this day. Among other historical churches in the area, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church built in 1866 continues to be a major focal point of Freedmen's Town, though it has been relocated from its original site on "Baptist Hill" where the Music Hall and Coliseum now stand.

Reverend John Jack Yates, the first Black pastor of Antioch, was a dynamic and influen-

tial leader known for his deep commitment to the education of Black youngsters. He often used his personal finances to send Freedmen's Town children to school. Today, Jack Yates High School in the Third Ward stands in his honor.

Of the houses that Reverend Yates built, only the one he built for his brother remains at 1314 Andrews. Yates' historical homestead at 1318 Andrews, believed to be the oldest two-story home built by an African American owner, was moved to Sam Houston Park (ironically, a park commemorating a slave-owner), while the house at 1204 Wilson was demolished by the City of Houston in 1986. Further plans promoted under the name of "Founders Park" so threatened the historical preservation of Freedmen's Town that outraged residents and leadership organized opposition through the Freedmen's Town Neighborhood Association to defeat the plans of outside private interests. However, the constant encroachment on Freedmen's Town and Fourth Ward continues to date with the plans of the Houston Renaissance and private developers.

Although Freedmen's Town is a nationally registered historical site, and the largest intact freed slave settlement left in the entire Nation, its official designation protects only 40 of the 80 blocks or more of the remaining Freedmen's Town area.

To preserve what remains of Freedmen's Town will require the combined efforts of community groups working with local, State, and Federal Government to reach a consensus of projects worthy of preservation.

One such project for Freedmen's Town is the "Bricks Street Project," which is intended to preserve the original brick pavers of Freedmen's Town along Andrews Street and Wilson Street. These streets have been found to contain brick pavers patterns which may be unique to the Freedmen's Town area, and are consistent with brick patterns seen on architectural features located in the Historic District. Oral histories indicate the possibility that portions of the iron rails which once carried a Freedmen's Town trolley car may still remain in situ in the rail track ways.

Three of these community groups include the Rutherford BH Yates Museum, Inc., which has played a leading part in promoting the Bricks Street Project; the Resident Council of Allen Parkway Village, which works to educate the public on issues of Federal housing and historical preservation laws; and the Freedmen's Town Association, founded for the purpose of assuring the active and effective participation of current residents in planning the preservation, restoration, and development of the area, especially in the area of business and private home ownership.

Mr. Chairman, hearts break when irreplaceable structures are destroyed or damaged beyond repair, instead of preserved and protected as they deserve. A plaque pointing out "on this site a great building once stood" simply cannot tell the story in whole or in full. Equally tragic is the loss of traditions: a way of living or crafting wood or farming, of celebrating holidays or worshipping or feasting on "Juneteenth" cuisine. The preservation and perpetuation of artifacts as well as traditions is important to telling the story of the people who settled a community. By protecting the buildings, landscape or special places and qualities that attract visitors, we preserve our history for future generations.

For all these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment and thank Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member TIAHRT for their courtesies, consideration, and very fine work in putting together this excellent legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I would say that on behalf of the majority, we would accept the gentlewoman's amendment and would be willing to work with her closely on it.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I yield to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I was just curious as to which line this amount was coming from and where it is going to because the amendment I have just says it decreases \$1 million and it increases \$1 million.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, it goes right into the same appropriations, historic State offices, but it doesn't take any money out without putting it right back in.

Mr. TIAHRT. Okay. I have no problem with that.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is agreed to.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for accepting the amendment, and I look forward to working with committee and working with the chairman on this important historical statement and language as we move forward to conference.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman will yield, the chairman and ranking member look forward to working with the gentlewoman on this very important issue.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman and ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. INSLEE

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 17 offered by Mr. INSLEE: